

## **IMPACTISRAEL'S VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE AND HOPE RAISES \$670,000 FOR ISRAEL'S AT-RISK YOUTH**

*U.S. Representative Nita M. Lowey received ImpactIsrael's Tikkun Ha'Lev Award for her devotion to underserved children and families. Donations during the hour-long event totaled \$100,000.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- BETHESDA, MD--** ImpactIsrael, the U.S. philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives, announced it raised \$670,000 for its virtual Celebration of Gratitude and Hope, on Oct. 28, 2020. The event was hosted live from Los Angeles by actor Joshua Malina and ImpactIsrael board member, Jeremy Barnett, and streamed throughout the United States. Nearly 400 households tuned in to watch and participate in the virtual fundraiser which featured pre-recorded messages from celebrities and entertainers Tiffany Haddish, Joel Grey, Shoshana Bean and David Broza. U.S. Rep. Nita M. Lowey received ImpactIsrael's Tikkun Ha'Lev Award for her devotion to underserved children and families. The program also featured a new video and song by Yemin Orde's youth choir as well as inspiring stories and testimonials by Village graduates, educators, volunteers and supporters. All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting quality, value-driven education and programs for thousands of at-risk youth in Israel. Yemin Orde Youth Village is home, school and safe haven for 450 at-risk youth from around the world, most who suffer from family dysfunction, poverty, strife and trauma. Village Way Educational Initiatives expands the successful Village Way educational methodology, modeled at Yemin Orde, to 60 educational communities in Israel, with high populations of at-risk youth. Visit <https://impact-israel.org/> for more information.



The Celebration of Gratitude and Hope was co-chaired by Talee and Harvey Potter (New York) and Jeremy Barnett (Los Angeles). Harvey Potter and Barnett both serve as ImpactIsrael board members.

"I am so pleased by how many generous donors stepped up to support our vital educational mission in Israel. Especially during this pandemic, the needs of marginalized youth are more urgent than we've ever seen in our lifetime," said Robert Arogeti, Board Chair, ImpactIsrael. "As a result of our generous donors, at-risk youth in Israel will embrace hope, thrive and realize their dreams for a future as productive citizens."

U.S. Representative Nita M. Lowey (NY-17<sup>th</sup> District) accepted ImpactIsrael's Tikkun Ha'Lev Award for her lifetime devotion to underserved children and families. Rep. Lowey visited Yemin Orde Youth Village on a previous trip to Israel and was inspired by its youth, quality education and its supportive and caring community. She later mentioned her impactful visit to Yemin Orde in a speech to Congress.

The virtual event's theme, Celebration of Gratitude and Hope, focused on acknowledging the commitment of ImpactIsrael's community of donors and sharing stories of hope and resilience reflected in the testimonials of Yemin Orde's youth, graduates, and educators.

"This event was our first foray into the virtual world of fundraising on a large scale. I am honored by the loyalty of our donors who joined our upbeat and meaningful celebration and thrilled that we could bring so many new friends to our proverbial table and introduce them to the Village Way," said Karen Sallerson, Executive Director, ImpactIsrael.

Yemin Orde Youth Village remained opened during Israel's Covid-19 lockdown for its youth with no other home in Israel or who cannot return safely to challenging home environments. Today, all youth have returned to the Village but classes, dining situations and home environments operate within strict health and safety protocols. Village graduates who experience financial hardship because of the pandemic receive financial assistance and emotional support.

Village Way Educational Initiatives and its team of facilitators provided remote learning materials and guidance to thousands of educators during Israel's lockdowns who, in turn, remained connected to their isolated students. ###

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